

SLCN and SEN

Special Educational Needs and Disability: Code of Practice 0-25 years (Department for Education and Department of Health 2014)

The 0-25 SEND Code of Practice is statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Bill and associated regulations. All organisations listed within the code (1.4) must have regard to it and must be able to demonstrate that they are fulfilling their statutory duty to have regard to this code. The Code of Practice sits alongside a number of associated regulations. It describes the principles that should be observed by all professionals working with children and young people who have SEN or disabilities. These include:

- taking into account the views of children, young people and their families
- enabling children, young people and their parents to participate in decision-making
- collaborating with partners in education, health and social care to provide support
- identifying the needs of children and young people
- making high quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people
- focusing on inclusive practices and removing barriers to learning
- helping children and young people to prepare for adulthood

The SLCN Pathway is structured to fit with the graduated approach which is a fundamental part of the SEND Code of Practice. SEN support should take the form of a four-part cycle (assess, plan, do, review) through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised. When reviewing and managing special educational provision there are four broad areas of need and support which give an overview of the range of needs that should be planned for, and schools should review how well equipped they are to provide support across these areas. They are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotion and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

Primary speech, language or communication need are categorised within ‘Communication and interaction’, however SLCN as a secondary need can occur within any of the categories.